

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 29, 1899, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. Washington, D. C. May 29th, 1899. My dear Alec:

I was glad to get a sight of your handwriting this morning, and to know that my letter record was so good. In the day of small things let us be thankful for small mercies. I do think however that you might take some of the time occupied in hunting up items for Gilbert's paper in writing to me. You would quick enough if you were sufficiently interested. How differently I could write in 1876 when you were on a visit to your father in Canada, when "I begin to believe that I have a post all to myself, your letters come so regularly every day when we are at dinner just before the dessert is brought in."

I guess you are working hard just now. I hope you are making more progress than I, it seems almost impossible to get pinned down to my work. I feel all the time that I have duties to my children, and I don't like to refuse them my help when they need it, and Daisy has claimed it a good deal lately, as the trouble in her eyes has prevented her from doing anything. I think it is nearly over now. Elsie too has returned from Philadelphia. She had a good time, and thinks she accomplished something by interesting her cousin, Jane Hubbard in day schools for the deaf of Philadelphia. Jane did a good deal to establish summer schools there, and wants to extend them to the deaf, also to start a school for feeble-minded deaf children. Elsie took her to see Mr. Crouter and she thinks they handled him very skillfully, so that he became interested in their ideas and admitted that day kindergartens for deaf babies was advisable. I think Elsie will 2 accomplish something especially if she will only take the trouble to study up her subject. She came home to attend the meeting of her club, giving up a visit to the Horse Show for the purpose.

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The children both send their love, and are gone to bed. It is near 11:30 how they will like getting up at 5:30 tomorrow morning to go horseback riding I don't know. Gilbert is here and will go with them. Did I tell you that he, Day and I went on a picnic Sunday afternoon to Anacostia? We found a beautiful park on the top of a hill with fine old trees and rustic seats, I had never been there before. Now I must go to bed. Much love to you all.

Lovingly, Mabel.